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Government Hospitals

* 157 *Q.*—Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representations have been received from Government servants about any delay in giving them 'free treatment' in the out-patient departments of Government Hospitals; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU: (*a*) & (*b*) There were certain complaints in this regard and they are under examination.

Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM: Will the Government take the House into their confidence and tell us what is the nature of the representations made to the Government in this behalf?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU: I may mention two instances. In one instance relating to the City, representation was received from one Sri E. S. Natarajan, Upper Division Clerk, Industries, Labour and Co-operation Department, regarding the scant treatment given to his wife by one doctor in the out-patient department of the Kasturbhai Gandhi Hospital. He complained that preferential treatment was not given to his wife in the out-patient department. What he means by 'preferential treatment' is not known and that is being examined

Another complaint has been received from the Vice-President, Tanjore District Centre of the N.G.O.'s. He complained that indifferent treatment was given to him and his wife in the out-patient department and that is being examined.

Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM: Are there separate doctors posted to attend to Government servants?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU: No, Sir.

Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM: Is there priority in the matter of prompt attendance to Government servants so as to enable them to be in their offices in time?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU: So far as in-patient treatment is concerned, there is a sort of priority but so far as out-patient treatment is concerned, they are being treated as out-patients.

Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM: Will the Government consider condoning late attendance if that is due to delay in the hospital?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU: No. If any special treatment is to be given, then there must be a separate section or somebody must be there to treat them. Ordinary patients stand in a queue and if other people want a preferential treatment, that will create heart-burning among those patients.

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SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : In view of the representations received, will the Government pay special attention to this question and provide a separate staff or otherwise make suitable arrangements to attend to Government servants in the out-patient department?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : For doing such a thing, we must have so many things. We must have enough number of doctors first and the Hon. the Finance Minister also must come to my rescue.

3-10 p.m. SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Government examine the matter further now that they have received complaints about it and in the light of the representations that have been made to them?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : What is being examined is about the two incidents which I have narrated. We are examining them.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Government consider it as a general question and see how best these things could be done in Government hospitals?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Government will look into the matter after they examine these two representations.

SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : How many doctors are provided in the out-patient department to attend to patients?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : It is a general question. There are ever so many patients and ever so many doctors. If the hon. Member puts a specific question as to how many doctors there are in such and such a hospital in the out-patient department, then I can give the answer after collecting information.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Is it not true that this N.G.O. medical concession is illiberal in extent when compared with the medical concession given to Central Government servants? Will the Government just liberalise the concession so as to bring it on a par with that enjoyed by the servants of the Central Government?

MR. CHAIRMAN : This question has no connection with the main question.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : What is the relationship between the authorised medical attendant and the Government servant? Do the authorized medical attendants go to the hospital or do they go to the private residence of the Government servants?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : I think in some exceptional cases, they may go to the house.

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DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it not a fact that whenever the N.G.O. comes, usually, the medical attendant is not in a position to attend to the needs of the N.G.O. quickly as it should be in the case of Government servants?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : If the hon. Member gives me a particular instance, then I can enquire and tell him what the position is. How can I answer a hypothetical question?

Hire purchase transactions

* 158 Q.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM (on behalf of Sri T. V. Devaraja Mudaliar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to exclude hire purchase transactions from the purview of the Madras Money-lenders Act, 1957?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : No, Sir.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Did the Hon. Minister receive any representation in the matter? I remember the Hon. Minister said so yesterday in answer to a question.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : There were some representations. I said we would look into the matter.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Government consider liberalising the rules so that this measure may not affect normal business transactions?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : I can give a reply only after examining the question and considering it. Before that, I cannot say whether we are liberalising or narrowing it down.

B.T. Assistants

* 159 Q.—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that B.T. Assistants in the District Board High Schools in Madurai district are given the benefit of higher starting salary of Rs. 100;

(b) whether it is a fact that Assistants deputed for B.T. training by the District Board are not given this higher start;

(c) whether it is a fact that the benefit of higher start is much larger than the amount of stipends paid by them; and

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to give the benefit of excess over the stipend amount to such teachers?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (a) Some Assistants have been given the benefit.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government have no information on the point.

(d) No, Sir.